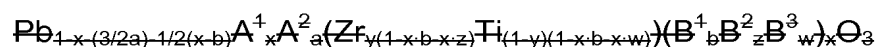## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 4 with the following replacement paragraph:

--It has been found that controlled addition of lithium in salt form in the range of 0.01 to 0.1 wt.% in the case of special PZT compositions, for example those proposed in WO 02/055450 A1, is capable of lowering the sintering temperature of the PZT ceramic by at least 100°C (from 1000°C to 900°C, for example), the electromechanical properties being preserved or even improved in relation to comparable PZT ceramics without such additives. The amount of additive depends on the PbO excess percentage and on the selection of the dopant proportions and thus on the lead lattice vacancies. ~~The above-mentioned, special PZT compositions proposed in WO 02/055450 A1 may have the formula:~~

$$\mathrm{\sout{Pb_{1-x-(3/2a)-1/2(x-b)}A^1_xA^2_a(Zr_{y(1-x-b-x-z)}Ti_{(1-y)(1-x-b-x-w)})(B^1_bB^2_zB^3_w)_xO_3}}$$

~~where A^1 is selected from the group Ca, Mg, Sr, Ba, or their mixtures; A^2 is selected from the group of rare-earth elements, in particular La, or their mixtures; B is selected from the group Nb, Ta, or Sb, or their mixtures; B^2 is Cu or a mixture of Cu with at least one element selected from the group Zn, Ni, Co, or Fe, and B^3 is Fe, under the condition that the following applies to a, b, c, x, y, z, and w:~~

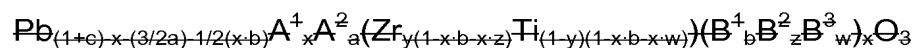~~$0.001 \le a \le 0.05$~~

~~$0.05 \le b \le 0.90$~~

~~$0.005 \le x \le 0.03$~~

~~$0.5 \le y \le 0.55$~~

~~$0.05 \le z \le 0.90$~~

~~$0 \le w \le 0.5.$~~

~~Alternatively, if PbO is added to the starting compounds in stoichiometric excess, so that the PZT ceramic obtained has a non-stoichiometric overall composition, the above-mentioned, special PZT compositions proposed in WO 02/055450 A1 may have the formula:~~

$$\mathrm{\sout{Pb_{(1+c)-x-(3/2a)-1/2(x-b)}A^1_xA^2_a(Zr_{y(1-x-b-x-z)}Ti_{(1-y)(1-x-b-x-w)})(B^1_bB^2_zB^3_w)_xO_3}}$$

where A^1, A^2, B^1, B^2, B^3 are as above and the following applies to a, b, c, x, y, z and w:

$0.001 \leq a \leq 0.05$

$0.05 \leq b \leq 0.90$

$0 \leq c \leq 0.04$

$0.005 \leq x \leq 0.03$

$0.5 \leq y \leq 0.55$

$0.05 \leq z \leq 0.90$

$0 \leq w \leq 0.5$.--.